



Office of Aerospace Medicine

Internal Substance Abuse Program (ISAP) Quarterly Newsletter

HEMP SEED OIL

Volume 3, Issue 3

(DEA DEFINES HEMP PRODUCTS AS ILLEGAL)

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Information about the Internal
Substance Abuse Program can be
found on the web at:
<http://www.faa.gov/avr/aam/isap>

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The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced hemp products would continue to be considered illegal under federal law. One hemp produce we all are aware of is marijuana.

The announcement drew protests from the Hemp Industries Association (HIA), which argued that hemp does not endanger health and would not trigger a false-positive drug test. The HIA and hemp advocates contend that the DEA is proposing the hemp ban because the drug-testing industry is concerned that legal hemp foods would make it difficult for law-enforcement officials to enforce marijuana laws.

The DEA, which is responsible for classifying drugs under the Controlled Substance Act (the Act), states in the above announcement that any substance that tests positive for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) -- including hemp foods, seed or oil -- is prohibited for use under the Act.

Therefore, the use of any hemp products which contains THC is not an acceptable excuse to downgrade a DOT/FAA initiated test which is positive for THC or its derivatives. It is the responsibility of the employee to know whether or not hemp products contain THC.

REASONABLE SUSPICION TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

Managers or supervisors have reported feeling uncomfortable to request an employee to submit to a reasonable suspicion drug and/or alcohol test. To assist managers and supervisors in this responsibility, a training course titled "Reasonable Suspicion Training for Managers and Supervisors" was developed. It exclusively deals with making reasonable suspicion determinations. This training is now available in most facilities as a computer-based instruction DVD course. See your facility training specialist for information.

This training course is designed to provide, through training and skill application, a higher comfort level for managers and supervisors in making a reasonable suspicion determination. The course presents the applicable regulations and explains them in detail, and it proceeds step by step through the entire process of making a determination.

In addition, a video portion portrays typical situations to help you develop your skill in making reasonable suspicion testing determinations. Another video portion presents the correct determinations of those same situations.

It is recommended that you take this training course to enhance your skill level in this important area.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Important Information for Parents

Ecstasy

Ecstasy is both a stimulant and a hallucinogen and its effects are potentially life threatening. Because it is inexpensive and easily accessible, Ecstasy is gaining in popularity. As reported in Monitoring the Future Study (*National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA] 1999*), 3.6 percent of 12th graders, 3.3 percent of 10th graders, and 1.8 percent of 8th graders said they had used the drug in 1998. From 1991 through 1998, use by college students increased from 0.9 percent to 2.4 percent, and by adults from 0.8 percent to 2.1 percent (*NIDA, Facts About MDMA, 2000*).

Drug

Methylene-Dioxymethamphetamine
“MDMA”

Active Ingredient

methamphetamines with
hallucinogenic properties

Street Names

X-TC, Adam, Clarity,
and Lover's Speed

Forms

Tablet, capsule, or powder form, and some manufacturers of the drug package it in capsules or generic tablets that imitate prescription drugs. The cost per pill ranges between \$7 and \$30.

Effects

Like all club drugs, Ecstasy is a combination of other illicit drugs. Because many different recipes are used to make Ecstasy, the risk of death or permanent brain damage is heightened. MDMA's effects last approximately 3 to 6 hours, though the confusion, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, and paranoia have been reported to occur even weeks after the drug is taken. Ecstasy enables users to dance for extended periods which may also lead to dehydration, hypertension, and heart or kidney failure. MDMA can be extremely dangerous in high doses. It can cause a marked increase in body temperature (malignant hyperthermia) leading to the muscle breakdown and kidney and cardiovascular system failure. There are reports of fatal cases. MDMA use may also lead to heart attacks, strokes, and seizures in some users.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What happens if a TDP employee fails to report for random testing?

A. If a TDP employee does not provide a legitimate reason for failing to report for a random test, the supervisor documents the failure in writing and initiate action to remove the employee from the Federal service in accordance with FAPM Letter 2635, Conduct and Discipline; applicable collective bargaining agreements; and other applicable statutes, orders, and regulations. No opportunity for rehabilitation is offered to a TDP employee who does not provide a legitimate reason for failing to report for a random test. (This answer does not address a bashful bladder or shy lung situation.)

Q. How does the Site Coordinator (SC) identify which employees should be tested on the day of random testing?

A. There is a two phase approach that a SC uses to identify which employees is be tested during random testing.

Phase I: First, the SC estimates the time it will take to conduct testing at the facility. To do this, the SC identifies the testing quota that is located in the top right hand corner of the test list. The SC multiplies this quota by 20 minutes per test for drug collection and 15 minutes per alcohol test, then the SC divides the product by 60. This will estimate the number of hours it takes to conduct the facility testing.

Phase II: Second, the SC identifies those eligible employees on duty or scheduled to report on duty during the calculated timeframe for testing. The SC moves down the test list in sequential order, identifying and annotating the test list of employees who are not available (annotating why not), who is there, and who will be there during the estimated time for testing. The SC continues this process until the test quota is met or the test list is exhausted.